

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 5-17 have been withdrawn from consideration leaving claims 2-4 under examination.

The Office Action dated March 8, 2005, has been received and carefully reviewed. In that Office Action, it was indicated that claim 4 would be allowable if amended to include the limitations of its base claim. For the reasons provided below, it is believed that claims 2-4 are allowable as written. Claim 4 is therefore not being amended at this time. Reconsideration of the rejections of claims 2 and 3 is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

IDS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As an initial matter, it is noted that two IDS's have been filed in this case, one on January 14, 2004, and another on December 9, 2004. An initialed copy of form PTO-1449 from the December IDS was attached to the March 8, 2005, Office Action. An initialed copy of the PTO-1449 from the January IDS was not provided. It is respectfully requested that the examiner provide an initialed copy of this second form PTO-1449 to show the references thereon were considered with the next communication in this case.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yener. Claim 2 requires a data managing unit that includes, *inter alia*, an agent unit that saves encrypted document data. The Office Action argues that Yener shows such an agent unit. However, it is respectfully submitted that Yener includes no discussion of encrypted document data. Rather, Yener distributes unencrypted data among a plurality of mirror servers. Yener also does not disclose an agent that saves attribute information with encrypted document data. Yener discusses the transfer of encrypted keys and requests for information at column 11, line 57-67, but does not discuss the use of encrypted document data as required by claim 2.

Claim 2 further requires a document managing unit which executes user authentication, access control and document image edition. The Office Action indicates that Yener shows this feature at column 11, lines 57-67; however, those lines provide no information concerning document image edition. Instead, Yener discloses at column 12, lines 41-44, that it is the client that performs file reconstruction. Yener therefore discloses no element corresponding to a document managing unit that performs user authentication, access control and document image edition as required by claim 2.

Yener fails to disclose at least the two elements of claim 2

discussed above. Claim 2 is submitted to be allowable over Yener for at least this reason.

Claim 3 depends from claim 2 and is submitted to be allowable for the same reasons as claim 2. Claim 3 further requires that the client unit and the agent unit which saves document data used by a user of the client unit be housed in a user terminal. With reference to Figure 1 of Yener, Yener discloses clients 14 and servers 13 that are not housed in a user terminal as required by claim 3. Instead, the clients 14 and servers 13 connect over a network 11. The portion of Yener cited in the Office Action discusses communications between servers and clients, but in no manner shows or suggests a client unit and an agent unit housed in a user terminal as required by claim 3. Claim 3 is submitted to further distinguish over Yener for this reason.

Claim 4 is submitted to be allowable for the same reasons as claim 2 from which it depends.

#### Conclusion

Each issue raised in the Office Action dated March 8, 2005, has been addressed, and it is believed that claims 2-4 are in condition for allowance. Wherefore, reconsideration and allowance of these claims is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully

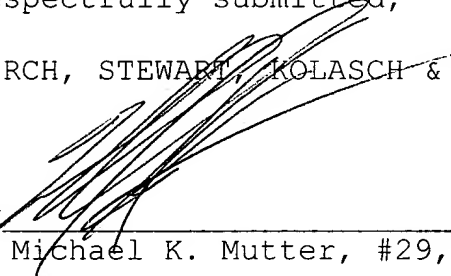
requested to contact Scott Wakeman (Reg. No. 37,750) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.


If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By

  
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